

Message Text

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SUBJECT: U.S.-JAPAN FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS: RECENT PRESS COVERAGE

1. SEVERAL ARTICLES ON U.S.-JAPAN FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS APPEARED IN JAPANESE PRESS ON AUG. 26-27, PROVIDING MIXED VIEWS OF THE PRESENT STATE OF PLAY. AUG. 26 ASAHI (EVENING EDITION) IN A PAGE-1 STORY HEADLINED, "JAPAN-U.S. HEAD ON CONFRONTATION, VERY LITTLE NARROWING OF DIFFERENCES ON 200-MILES," SAID U.S. IS STANDING BY DEMAND THAT GOJ RECOGNIZE THE U.S.'S UNILATERALLY DECLARED 200-MILE FISHERY ZONE AS A PRECONDITION FOR FISHING RIGHTS WHILE JAPAN IS STICKING TO THE END BY ITS POSITION THAT IT CANNOT RECOGNIZE U.S. 200-MILE JURISDICTION UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THAT JAPAN'S VESTED FISHING RIGHTS MUST BE MAINTAINED. THUS, "ASAHI" SAID, THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE REACHING AN IMPASSE AND WILL BE CONTINUED IN TOKYO AT THE TIME OF THE INPFC MEETING EARLY IN NOVEMBER. IN CONCLUSION THE ASAHI NOTED THAT THE U.S. IS, HOWEVER, SAID TO BE TAKING A MORE FRIENDLY ATTITUDE THAN IT PREVIOUSLY HAD TOWARD CONSIDERATION OF JAPANESE SCIENTIFIC DATA AND STOCK ASSESSMENTS, SAYING IT WANTS TO REACH AS OBJECTIVE A CONCLUSION AS POSSIBLE IN ESTABLISHING QUOTAS.

2. AUG. 26 "NIHON KEIZAI (EVENING) PAGE 1, REPORT WAS CAPTIONED "U.S.-JAPAN FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS, COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT THIS MONTH IMPOSSIBLE? POSSIBLE PROVISIONAL AGREE-
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MENT, U.S. HINTING IT WILL GIVE (JAPAN) CONSIDERATION ON

FISHING QUOTAS; U.S. 200-MILE (ZONE) WILL BE MOST DIFFICULT POINT AFTER ALL." THE STORY SAID THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE HAVING ROUGH SAILING BUT THAT THE U.S. HAD JINTED THAT IT WOULD NOT TREAT JAPAN UNFAVORABLY WITH RESPECT TO SUCH MATTERS AS A HUGE DECREASE IN ITS FISHING QUOTA. ON QUESTIONS OF PRINCIPLE, HOWEVER, "NIHON KEIZAI" REPORTED, THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE PROTRACTED BECAUSE OF JAPAN'S INABILITY TO OVERRIDE ITS PRINCIPLES AND RECOGNIZE U.S. 200-MILE JURISDICTION AS A PRE-CONDITION FOR THE AGREEMENT. FOR THIS REASON, THE ARTICLE CONTINUED, IT WAS THOUGHT VERY LIKELY THAT CONSIDERATION OF A PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT HAD BEGUN IN ORDER TO AVOID A SITUATION OF HAVING NO AGREEMENT IN EFFECT. THE ARTICLE CONTINUED THAT THE U.S. WAS TAKING A RELATIVELY UNDERSTANDING VIEW ON JAPAN'S FISHING QUOTA, HAD AGREED TO CONTINUE BILATERAL SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES, AND WAS ALSO SHOWING UNDERSTANDING WITH RESPECT TO INCLUDING LANGUAGE THE JAPANESE SIDE DESIRED IN THE DRAFT OF THE AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN U.S. AND JAPANESE DATA ON SOME SPECIES, THE U.S. REGARDS THE JAPANESE SIDE'S VIEW OF THE OVERALL STATE OF THE RESOURCES AS A REASONABLE ONE. "NIHON KEIZAI" WENT ON TO SAY THAT GIVEN THE STRONG AUTHORITY OF THE REGIONAL COUNCILS IN THIS AREA, IT CAN'T BE SAID THAT A HUGE QUOTA CUT HAS BEEN AVOIDED, HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE PARTICIPATION OF REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS IN THE CURRENT DISCUSSIONS AND THE FACT THAT THE COUNCILS, THROUGH LACK OF PREPARATION, ARE EXPECTED TO BE QUITE DEPENDENT ON THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT'S LEADERSHIP, THE JAPANESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE EVALUATING THE U.S. SIDE'S ATTITUDE POSITIVELY. THE ARTICLE WENT ON TO SPECULATE THAT THE STRATEGY ADOPTED BY THE JAPANESE SIDE OF AVOIDING POLEMICAL CONFRONTATION WITH THE U.S. NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE U.S.'S UNILATERAL 200-MILE DECLARATION HAD DRAWN FROM THE U.S. A MORE FLEXIBLE POSTURE ON THE FISHING QUOTAS. THE REPORT CONCLUDED THAT THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE TWO SIDES APPEARED TO BE FOCUSING ON A FINAL AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD BE A TREATY RATHER THAN AN ADMINISTRATIVE AGREEMENT AND THAT JAPAN WOULD HAVE TO MAKE COMPROMISES TO REACH AGREEMENT BECAUSE IT COULD NOT JUST STAND ON PRINCIPLE WHILE THE DEADLINE FOR CUTTING OFF FISHING APPROACHES. THE COMPROMISE WILL DEPEND, IT SUGGESTED, ON THE PROGRESS OF U.S. NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND HOW

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WORLD DEVELOPMENTS TOWARD THE 200-MILE ZONE MOVE.

3. ON AUG. 27 THE "YOMIURI" CARRIED A PAGE 9 REPORT CAPTIONED "HEADING TOWARD A SETTLEMENT IN NEGOTIATIONS: LARGE-SCALE CONCESSIONS UNAVOIDABLE." THIS STORY SAID "THE PESSIMISTIC VIEW IS GROWING STRONG THAT LARGE-SCALE CONCESSIONS ON THE PART OF OUR COUNTRY WILL BE UNAVOIDABLE." THE REPORT SAID NEGOTIATIONS WILL CONTINUE IN TOKYO AT TIME OF NOVEMBER

INPFC MEETING WHERE SCIENTIFIC DISCUSSIONS ON POLLACK AND ROCKFISH WILL BE HELD, THE "YOMIURI" CONCLUDED THAT THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF THE U.S. SOFTENING ITS POSTURE ON 200-MILE JURISDICTION AND THUS JAPAN WILL BE FORCED TO MAKE CONCESSIONS BUT WILL DO SO WITH AN EYE ON THE MOVES OF THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER NATIONS WHICH ARE NEGOTIATING WITH THE U.S.

4. "SUISAN KEIZAI" ON AUG. 27 ALSO REPORTED THAT CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO DRAFTING A PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT AND THAT THE JAPANESE SIDE HOPES TO FIND POINTS OF COMPROMISE FROM THE FACT THAT THE U.S. IS LISTENING TO THE JAPANESE SIDE'S VIEWS, CONSIDERING JAPAN'S COUNTER-DRAFT AGREEMENT, AND SHOWING A SOMEWHAT FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE.
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